

be adequately served by acceptance of the sum to be agreed upon. Mere accidental or technical violations may be dealt with less severely than willful and substantial violations.

§ 103.6 Joint and several liability.

When two or more debtors are jointly and severally liable, collection action will not be withheld against one such debtor until the other or others pay their proportionate shares. The agency should not attempt to allocate the burden of paying such claims as between the debtors but should proceed to liquidate the indebtedness as quickly as possible. Care should be taken that a compromise agreement with one such debtor does not release the agency's claim against the remaining debtors. The amount of a compromise with one such debtor shall not be considered a precedent or as morally binding in determining the amount which will be required from other debtors jointly and severally liable on the claim.

§ 103.7 Compromise for a combination of reasons.

A claim may be compromised for one or for more than one of the reasons authorized in this part.

§ 103.8 Further review of compromise offers.

If an agency holds a debtor's firm written offer of compromise which is substantial in amount and the agency is uncertain as to whether the offer should be accepted, it may refer the offer, the supporting data, and particulars concerning the claim to the General Accounting Office or to the Department of Justice. The General Accounting Office or the Department of Justice may act upon such an offer or return it to the agency with instructions or advice.

§ 103.9 Restrictions.

Neither a percentage of a debtor's profits nor stock in a debtor corporation will be accepted in compromise of a claim. In negotiating a compromise with a business concern, consideration should be given to requiring a waiver of the tax-loss-carry-forward and tax-loss-carry-back rights of the debtor.

PART 104—STANDARDS FOR SUSPENDING OR TERMINATING COLLECTION ACTION

Sec.

- 104.1 Scope and application.
- 104.2 Suspension of collection activity.
- 104.3 Termination of collection activity.
- 104.4 Transfer of claims.

AUTHORITY: 31 U.S.C. 3711(a)(3).

SOURCE: 49 FR 8903, Mar. 9, 1984, unless otherwise noted.

§ 104.1 Scope and application.

(a) The standards set forth in this part apply to the suspension or termination of collection action pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3711(a)(3) on claims which do not exceed \$20,000, exclusive of interest, penalties, and administrative costs, after deducting the amount of partial payments or collections, if any. The head of an agency (or designee) may suspend or terminate collection action under this part with respect to claims for money or property arising out of activities of that agency prior to the referral of such claims to the General Accounting Office or to the Department of Justice for litigation. The Comptroller General (or designee) may exercise such authority with respect to claims referred to the General Accounting Office prior to their further referral for litigation.

(b) If, after deducting the amount of partial payments or collections, if any, a claim exceeds \$20,000, exclusive of interest, penalties, and administrative costs, the authority to suspend or terminate rests solely with the Department of Justice. If the agency thinks suspension or termination may be appropriate, it should evaluate the matter, using the factors set forth in this part. If the agency then concludes that suspension or termination is appropriate, it must refer the matter to the Department of Justice, using the Claims Collection Litigation Report. See 4 CFR 105.2(b). The referral should specify the reasons for the agency's recommendation. If the agency decides not to suspend or terminate collection action on the claim, Justice Department approval is not required. If an agency determines that its claim is plainly erroneous or clearly without